

COURSE OF STUDY SCHOOL OF OHIO  
HYBRID COURSES AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

COS 313 – OUR MISSION FROM GOD: EVANGELISM  
Summer 2014  
SYLLABUS

*This course will begin on campus June 20-21, 2014; and then continue and conclude online August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.*

Instructor:

Rev. Dr. Tim Burden, Senior Pastor at Trinity Family Life Center (UMC),  
Pickerington, OH

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Course Description and Objectives:

The mission of the church is to serve God and neighbor by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world. This proclamation of the Gospel is evangelism. This course seeks to provide a foundation for evangelism from Scripture, understand our Methodist heritage, and gain strategies for practical ministry for our congregations to carry out the mission in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Objectives:

1. Significant reference to the biblical roots of evangelism, with particular attention to New Testament foundations.
2. Interpretation and appreciation of the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.
3. Survey of strategies and models for evangelism in the past, present, and future of the church.
4. Analysis of contemporary issues of evangelism, such as debates on church growth methodologies, the relationship of evangelism and mission, evangelism in relation to personal and social transformation, evangelism and revivalism.
5. Focus on evangelism in and use for the local congregation, with emphasis on such issues as preaching evangelistically, organizing and training laity for evangelism, relation evangelism to Christian education, and planning for long range evangelistic efforts in communities.
6. Critical analysis of and appreciation for electronic media as instruments of evangelism.

Recommended Reading:

- 1) John Wimber and Kevin Springer- *Power Evangelism* (Regal Press, 1986, ISBN 978-08307-4796-2)
- 2) Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson, editors- *Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit* (Abingdon Press, 2005: ISBN 9780687493630)
- 3) Thomas T. Clegg and Warren Bird- *Lost in America: How You and Your Church Impact the World Next Door* (Group Publishing, 2001: ISBN 0-7644-2257-X)
- 4) David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyon- *Unchristian* (Baker Books, October, 2007, ISBN 978-0801013003)

*Students are responsible for obtaining their own books.*

Course Schedule:

On Campus Weekend: June 20-21, 2014

The On Campus Weekend will begin at 2:30 on Friday and end by 2:30pm Saturday. Friday class is 2:30 to 8:30pm, with a dinner break at 5:00pm; Saturday resumes at 8:30am, with chapel at 11:15am, lunch at noon, and class concludes at 2:30.

Online Environment: June 21- August 2, 2014.

This course continues and concludes with work online. Typical work online includes reading assigned books, engaging in online discussion and conversation, and writing reflections from reading and online conversations (2-3 pages). All online engagement will be complete by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Final Semester Paper:

Final paper of 8-10 pages is due August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ON CAMPUS SCHEDULE SUMMER TERM 2014**

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014

1:30 -2:30 Arrival, check in, refreshments available

2:30 -5pm Class session

5:00pm Dinner in Thie Fellowship Hall

6:00 – 8:30pm Class session

SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2014

8:00-8:30 Light breakfast/beverages available

8:30 -11:00 Class session

11:15- Noon Chapel-Thie Fellowship Hall

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch Thie Fellowship Hall

12:45- 2:30 Class Session

## **Course of Study School of Ohio Grading System**

**“A”, “A-”** - The requirements of the course have been met with exceptional levels of excellence and creativity.

**“B+”, “B”, “B-”** - good work

**“C+”, “C”, “C-”** - work meets minimum standards

**“D”** - substandard but passing work

**“F”**— All the requirements of the course have not been adequately fulfilled and no credit can be given; failing work

**“WD”**- Student did not attend course

**Grades of B+ or higher may be transferable into other educational programs (e.g., Advanced Course of Study, seminary level work, etc.)**

**Note**—National policy stipulates that a person cannot miss more than 20% of a course and still receive credit.

**Please note that there are no “Incompletes” in Course of Study School.** Since pastors constantly need to meet deadlines in their work, and since work due is clearly outlined in syllabi ahead of time, there is no need for any incompletes.

Grade sheets are sent (by the Coordinator) to the student (who is responsible for giving a copy to the District Superintendent or District Committee on Ministry), Annual Conference Registrar, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. *Instructor’s comments give district and conference boards information to judge how the student engaged the material and the learning process.* Evaluations appropriately include any concerns about the student, as well as highlights of strengths and gifts for ministry.

## **ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY**

Course of Study School of Ohio requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling academic requirements must be the original work of the student. Violations of academic honor include any action by a student indicating lack of integrity in academic ethics. Violations include, but are not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes seeking, acquiring, receiving or passing on information about the content of an examination prior to its authorized release or during its administration. Cheating also includes seeking, using, giving or obtaining unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment or examination. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the published or unpublished words or ideas of another [including online resources] as if it were one's own work. A writer's work should be regarded as his or her own property. Any person who knowingly (whether intentionally or unintentionally) uses a writer's distinctive work without proper acknowledgement is guilty of plagiarism. A student found guilty of a violation of the academic honor policy, after a review of the case, may be subject to one or more of the following actions:

1. warning
2. probation
3. suspension for the remainder of the course
4. dismissal from the Course of Study School of Ohio
5. failing grade for the course.

Regardless of the outcome, a letter will be sent to the student's District Superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

## **CLASS PLAN FOR COS 313: OUR MISSION FROM GOD- EVANGELISM**

Expectations:

1. Do the reading as assigned
2. Check into the chat room regularly. You are expected to each week contribute one original thought and respond to two other thoughts with some substance. Discussion questions based on the reading and objectives will be provided each week to guide the contributions to the conversation.
3. Submit your reflection papers and Final Paper online as assigned to me: [tmburden@united.edu](mailto:tmburden@united.edu)

Assignments:

On Campus June 21-22, 2014

June 27: Read Acts 1 and 2; Read Worldview Article by C. Peter Wagner; Read Power Evangelism by John Wimber; respond to Discussion Forum Questions online.

July 3: Read Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:36-53; Read Considering the Great Commission: Evangelism and Mission in the Wesleyan Spirit by Gunter and Robinson. Respond to Forum Questions; Paper due 2-3 pages reflecting on biblical roots of evangelism.

July 11: Read Matthew 13; Read Lost in America by Clegg and Bird; Respond to Forum Questions.

July 18: Read Luke 15; Respond to Forum Questions; Read Unchristian by Kinnaman and Lyons; Reflection Paper due on Issues in evangelism today and revivalism.

July 25: Read John 15 and 16; Respond to Forum Questions.

August 1: Respond to Forum Questions; Final Paper due (8-10 pages) "Our Mission from God: Evangelism " identifying the needs in today's world and a strategy for meeting those needs in your ministry context.

Discussion Forum Questions:

June 27: What do you hope to learn in this course? What were some personal take-aways from our class time together?

July 3: What are the connections between evangelism and relationships and disciple-making? What is the Gospel/Good News?

July 11: What were some ways John Wesley and the Methodists were on the cutting edge of evangelism?

July 18: What are some strategies and models for evangelism that are relevant for reaching the lost today? How would you distinguish between evangelism and mission?

July 25: What is wrong with the church today? How are the evangelistic strategies today effective or ineffective? Why?

August 1: Have you found electronic media to be a useful tool in evangelism? How?